

Roxanne and Michael Laplante
30 Harding St.
New Britain, CT
06052

Dear Members of the Committee,

We are writing in opposition of bill #6380, An Act Concerning the Budget of Biennium due to the proposed split of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB). This agency has touched our lives and that of our son in ways that are unimaginable.

Our son Cody Laplante was diagnosed with macular hypoplasia before he was six months old. When we heard the news we were devastated. However, with the support of BESB, he has worked his way through school and is now looking at colleges and career paths. Without the adaptive technology, large print books and educational programs that BESB has provided him, he would have struggled much more throughout his academic career. Now as he grows older, Cody is taking leadership positions in many of BESB's programs such as a senior Counselor in Training at Camp Abilities, CT, a member of the Student Advisory Council and an intern and camper/counselor at BESB's Sports Adventure Weekend.

IF this piece of legislation is passed, there is no guarantee that these services will remain as they are and children across the state of Connecticut may not receive the opportunities to succeed as our son did. The limitations that would be put on these services may be drastic and we as a family are not willing to take that chance. Once again we urge you as citizens and as people not to pass this bill for our teachers, for our educators and most importantly for our children. Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Roxanne Laplante



Michael Laplante

